

POLS News and Notes

Late Fall 2015 (vol. 3, no. 2)

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A note From the Department Head ...



The fourth floor of Oak Hall has been a busy place in recent weeks. With two job searches currently underway (the department will be hiring a comparative politics scholar for the Stamford campus and an international relations scholar for the Storrs campus), we have scheduled seven job talks to be held through mid-December. Those job candidates – along

with all the invited speakers in our ongoing colloquium series – should keep OAK 438 brimming with lively discussions of politics for the time being. Special thanks in particular goes to the two search committee chairpersons (Dr. Oksan Bayulgen and Dr. Stephen Dyson) who have shepherded their hard-working committees through the review of hundreds of qualified applicants to bring us to this point. As this is the final newsletter of 2015, let me also extend to all the readers of this newsletter (and their families) a happy and healthy holiday season. We'll see you in 2016, at which point we can hopefully introduce you to the newest additions to our faculty!

—David Yalof

Recent Faculty Publications, Conferences and Honors



Professor **Zehra F. Kabasakal Arat** recently published an article, "Feminisms, Women's Rights, and the UN: Would Achieving Gender Equality Empower Women?" in the *American Political Science Review*. Her article offers a conceptual and empirical critique of liberal feminism in the context of human rights discourse. Professor Arat also attended the Northeast International Studies Association conference, held in Providence on November 6-7, and served as the discussant of the panel on "Feminist Mediations in International Relations."



Former Grad Student José Mora Making a Difference in Cambodia

José E. Mora, a recent UConn Ph.D. (2010), is now an Associate Professor of Global Affairs at the American University of Phnom Penh (AUPP). He also directs the AUPP's Global Affairs program, which aims to bring the highest educational standards to a country still struggling to uplift its educational system after it was decimated by the Khmer Rouge and ensuing years of civil war. Mora is currently working to help the AUPP craft a higher caliber program. Through the development of effective and valuable leaders for business and government, such a program may eventually help

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Professor Arat also visited Turkey in October where she delivered the keynote speech, “Challenges for Feminist Theory and Politics: Struggling for Gender Equality or Empowerment?” at the International Conference on Knowledge and Politics in Gender and Women's Studies, held at the Middle East Technical University in Ankara, on October 9-11. While there she also gave two talks at Koc University in Istanbul, entitled “Would Gender Equality Empower Women? Feminist Alternatives and Challenges” and “Human Rights in Turkey and the European Union.”



Professor **Evelyn M. Simien** recently published her book, *Historic Firsts: How Symbolic Empowerment Changes U.S. Politics* (2015), with Oxford University Press.



Professor **Christine Sylvester's** edited volume, *Masquerades of War*, was published in July by Routledge (London). Most of the contributors are part of her Experiencing War research project and participated in a workshop she ran at the School of Global Studies, Gothenburg University (Sweden), where she holds an affiliated position.



Professor **Shareen Hertel** presented a paper on “The Economic Roots of Conflict and the Role of Stakeholder Dialogue: Consultation in the Business & Human Rights Arena” at a New York University-sponsored “Expert Meeting on Localizing Human Rights” from November 9-11. She also conducted a November 2015 online training seminar on stakeholder dialogue for the Fair Labor Association (Washington, DC), an organization with which UConn partners to monitor human rights conditions in the production of our logo-bearing apparel and other products. Hertel's article, “Human Rights and Engineering: Teaching Across the Divide,” co-authored with Allison MacKay (Ohio State University), was just published in the inaugural issue of the *Business & Human Rights Journal* (published by Cambridge University Press).



In his capacity as an expert on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, Professor **Jeremy Pressman** was interviewed by *Vox.com* journalist Zack Beauchamp on escalating violence in Jerusalem. The interview transcript is available at: <http://www.vox.com/2015/10/14/9530765/jerusalem-stabbings-interview>.

Grad in Cambodia

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Cambodia become an equitable partner in the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN). As part of that effort, the AUPP is also attempting to build relationships with local and international institutions.

One of the AUPP's most notable initiatives is its program to provide printed material for Cambodia's educational system. Professor Mora writes, “Books are a rare commodity here. Difficult and very expensive to get. We have received some contributions but we are a long way away from having the sort of library that students need.” Thus If you would like to help contribute to the AUPP's efforts to assemble a library, please feel free to contact Professor Mora directly at j.mora@aupp.edu.kh. More information about the American University of Phnom Penh can also be found at its website:

<http://www.aupp.edu.kh/>



Professor **Paul Herrnson**'s article "The Impact of District Magnitude on Voter Drop-Off and Roll-Off in American Election," with James M. Curry and Jeffrey A. Taylor, appeared in *Legislative Studies Quarterly*. Professor Herrnson also gave a presentation, "The New and Old Politics of Congressional Elections," at Case Western Reserve University on November 5th. Finally, Professor Herrnson was also cited in three news articles: "How superdonors are gutting America" (*Salon*) <http://www.salon.com/2015/10/24/how_superdonors_are_gutting_america_heres_the_research_that_helps_explain_a_political_systems_rightward_lurch/>; "Is Jeb Bush's once dominant campaign in jeopardy?" (*BBC News*) <<http://www.bbc.com/news/world-us-canada-34619141>>; and, lastly, "House Speaker Kevin McCarthy? New Title Could Mean Big News for Tobacco, Banking Leaders that Gave Him Money" (*International Business Times*) <<http://www.ibtimes.com/house-speaker-kevin-mccarthy-new-title-could-mean-big-news-tobacco-banking-leaders-2131527>>.



Professor **Vin Moscardelli** will be the co-Principal Investigator (with Robert Boatright of Clark University) on a recently-announced \$75,000 grant from the Hewlett Foundation's Madison Initiative to study the effects of the timing of congressional primaries. The goal of the project is to assess the consequences of congressional primary election dates for the competitiveness, outcomes, and expenses of primary and general elections, and to evaluate proposals regarding the optimal timing of congressional primary elections. The grant will support 50% of a graduate research assistant (RA) line (10 hours per week) for the spring 2016 semester, 25% (5 hours per week) of a graduate student RA line in the fall 2016 semester, as well as two months of 50% employment (10 hours per week) for a graduate student RA during the summer of 2016. **Clifford Vickrey** will be the graduate RA on this project in the spring of 2016. More information on Hewlett's Madison Initiative may be found at <http://hewlett.org/programs/special-projects/madison-initiative>.



On October 23rd, Professor **Kristin Kelly** participated in a day-long "Workshop on Human Rights and New Technologies" as an invited commentator. The workshop was sponsored by the Law School, the Human Rights Institute, the Research Program on Economic and Social Rights, and the Thomas J. Dodd Research Center.



Professor **Stephen Dyson** wrote a review of *The Martian*, a movie he discussed in a recent UConn Science Salon alumni panel. The panel, "SciFi Meets Reality," featured speakers from both the STEM fields and the humanities at UConn. A link to Prof. Dyson's review, published in *The Conversation*, is here: <<http://theconversation.com/the-martian-a-space-epic-that-explores-ordinary-human-decency-47911>>.



Professor **Simien** was also featured on WNPR discussing the Republican Debates as well as Mizzou and Yale student protests. Audio of the media roundtable is available here: <<http://wnpr.org/post/wheelhouse-gop-rumble-Milwaukee>>.



Professor **Shareen Hertel** has recently submitted a proposal (as co-primary Investigator with Jonathan Mellor and Emmanouil Anagnostou of the Department of Civil & Environmental Engineering) for a \$2.8 million National Science Foundation (NSF) Research Traineeship Program grant to build an interdisciplinary summer research/teaching/internship component into a larger \$4.8 million program already underway on water and sustainability in East Africa. Her contribution would be curriculum and internship development for East African and US graduate students involved in a summer graduate focused on interdisciplinary training on water resource management challenges (with a special focus on gender dynamics and economic rights applications).



This semester, the students in the Politics of Crime and Justice (POLS 3827) class taught by Professor **Kimberly Bergendahl** have been completing service learning projects with different community partners that have provided them with opportunities to gain more realistic understandings of the issues facing the criminal justice system today. The Carnegie Foundation definition of “Service Learning” is “a teaching and learning strategy that integrates meaningful community service with instruction and reflection to enrich the learning experience, teach civic responsibility, and strengthen communities.” The community partners include: The UConn Police Department, Perception Programs in Willimantic, Families in Need, The Office of the Victim Advocate, and the Petey Greene Program. One group is also completing an independent project to inform members of the surrounding areas on immigration matters. Another group of students is taking on a project to inform the community on racial disparities by organizing a discussion around the video, “The Color of Justice.” The students will be presenting their work at the end of the semester.

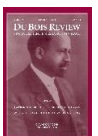
Graduate Student Achievements



On September 24th, Doctoral candidate **Tim Dzurilla** took part in the lead panel in a day-long UConn conference, “The University as Corporate Citizen,” co-hosted by the Dodd Center, the Economic & Social Rights Program of the Human Rights Institute, and the President’s Committee on Corporate Social Responsibility. POLS Professor Shareen Hertel moderated the panel. *The Daily Campus* covered the conference here: <<http://dailycampus.com/stories/2015/9/25/worker-rights-consortium-executive-director-leads-dodd-center-panel>>.



Graduate Assistants **Frank Griggs**, **Kelly Delaney**, and **Derefe Chevannes** received Teaching Excellence awards from the Provost’s Office on account of their excellent student evaluations.



POLS Ph.D. **Sarah Cote Hampson** (’14) coauthored an article, “Hillary Clinton and the Women Who Supported Her: Emotional Attachments and the 2008 Democratic Presidential Primary,” with **Professor Evelyn Simien**. The article was accepted for publication in *DuBois Review: Social Science Research on Race*.



POLS Ph.D. **Kristy Belton** ('14) was awarded an international prize for best dissertation on statelessness, from the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). The formal announcement is here. <https://www.tilburguniversity.edu/current/news/press-release-awards-statelessness/>. Kristy has revised her dissertation, entitled *Precarious Belonging: Stateless People in a 'Postnational' World*, which is now under review at University of Pennsylvania Press. Kristy is in her second year as a post-doctoral fellow in the Human Rights Studies program of the University of Dayton.

Undergraduate Students on the Rise



Field hockey player **Anna Middendorf** (POLS major; Economics and Human Rights double minor) was profiled in *UConn Today's* "Student-Athlete Strong" series, which highlights the academic achievements of student-athletes. In the interview, Anna named "Comparative Perspectives on Human Rights," taught by Professor Shareen Hertel, as her favorite class. The profile is available here: <http://today.uconn.edu/2015/10/student-athlete-strong-anna-middendorf/>.



Aaron Lattanzi ('15) earned an honorable mention in the Aetna Writing in the Disciplines Award. His paper, "International Environmental Movements: The Case of Greenpeace's Advocacy in the Arctic" was written for **Dr. Shareen Hertel's** course on "Globalization & Political Change" and is central to the work Aaron aims to explore in graduate school. He is currently applying to doctoral programs in Political Science.



The first on-line issue of the *UConn Political Review* will be posted during the final week of November (you can find it at www.uconnpolitics.com) The undergraduate scholarly publication, formally affiliated with the department, is dedicated to providing a "diverse analysis of political events and issues" through the publication of articles written, edited, and reviewed by undergraduates who have exhibited a commitment to academic excellence and political involvement. The *Review* accepts general applications for new writers at the beginning of each semester.

Emeriti Faculty in the News



Betty Hanson, Professor Emerita, spent two weeks in Beijing at China Foreign Affairs University as part of the "Foreign Experts" program. Among her activities was the Jingwei endowed lecture on "The New Public Diplomacy and Rising Powers" and a keynote address to a conference on "Multidisciplinary Perspectives on Public Diplomacy." She also lectured to teachers at the Central University of Finance and Economics on research strategies and to students at Beijing International Studies University and China Foreign Affairs University on regional relations in South Asia and other topics.

Upcoming Events

The Department has been blessed with several new sources of support for outside speakers. The Colloquium Committee recently announced that its inaugural **Political Science Visiting Speakers Matching Fund Initiative** was on track to be a great success. Additionally, President **Danielle Wong** and other members of the Political Science Graduate Student Association have been active as well, applying for and securing Graduate Senate funds to support a brand new **PSGSA Visiting Speaker Series**. Several of the speakers below are here thanks to one or both of these exciting new initiatives.

Monday, November 30th, 2015, 12:15 PM

Candidate for the Comparative Politics position

Oak 438

Monday, December 7th, 2015, 12:15 PM

Candidate for the Comparative Politics position

Oak 438

Thursday, December 10th, 2015, 12:30 PM

Candidate for the Comparative Politics position

Oak 438

Friday, February 12th, 2016, 2:15 PM - 3:45 PM

Jane Mansbridge, Harvard Kennedy School of Government

"Legitimate Coercion: The Key to the Universe"

Oak 408

Wednesday, February 17th, 2016, 12:15 PM – 1:30 PM

Oksan Bayulgen and Sercan Canbolat, UCONN Political Science

"What Makes Neo-Authoritarian Regimes Endure? Russian and Turkish Political Regimes In Comparative Perspective"

Oak 438

Monday, April 4th, 2016, 12:15 PM - 1:30 PM

Sonali Chakravarti, Wesleyan University

Title TBA

Oak 438

Wednesday, April 13th, 2006, 12:15 PM - 1:30 PM

Nick Bromell, University of Massachusetts-Amherst

Title TBA

Location TBA

Wednesday, April 20th, 2006, 12:15 PM - 1:30 PM

Brendan Nyhan, Dartmouth University

Title TBA

Oak 438

Wednesday, April 27th, 2006, 12:15 PM - 1:30 PM

Jane Gordon and Steven Manicasteri, UCONN Political Science

“The Once Powerful Mediterranean: Changing Estimations of Italy’s Centrality to Canonical Political Thought”

Oak 438

If you’d like to include an event on this list – either a talk you’re giving next semester elsewhere on campus or a talk you’d like the department to cosponsor/cross-promote – please contact Vin Moscardelli (vin.moscardelli@uconn.edu).